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An Open Letter to the 119th Congress of the United States

April 10, 2025

Dear Members of Congress,

Grants play an indispensable role in supporting vital programs and services that provide essential services, strengthen communities, drive innovation, and promote economic opportunity. We write to you today to underscore the critical importance of grant funding in effectively serving your constituents and addressing the varied needs of our nation.

The sudden discontinuation and unavailability of federal grants undermine initiatives that rely on a combination of public and private funding. Federal regulations guide the administration of federal contracts, including the specific ways grants can be canceled or rescinded. The impact of pausing, changing, or canceling grant agreements/contracts outside of established processes financially threatens organizations that have hired staff, signed leases, made purchases in good faith, and provided services to their communities as a result of their contracts. Subsequently, grantees may be forced to discontinue programs that serve the public.

The grant application process is rigorous and competitive, ensuring that federal funds are allocated to the most impactful programs. This process evaluates the merits of proposed programs and applicant capacities to implement them successfully. By carefully scrutinizing grant applications, federal agencies can maximize the return on investment and ensure that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly.

It is important to recognize that grant funds are not "free money." They come with stringent rules and regulations that govern how they are used. These rules safeguard taxpayer dollars and ensure that grant funds are used for their intended purposes. Grantees must adhere to these rules and are held accountable for their use of grant funds as a part of their grant agreements.

Grants support a wide range of programs and services that benefit individuals, families, and communities. They fund education and job training programs, provide healthcare and social services, support scientific research and technological innovation, and promote environmental protection and sustainable development. They are lifelines to our communities, critical to cultivating healthy realities for everyone entrusted to your care.

As elected representatives, you have a unique opportunity to champion the importance of federal grant programs being adequately funded and effectively administered, particularly grant funding that has already been awarded. By supporting grant programs, you can help to create a more just, equitable, and prosperous society for all Americans.

We implore you to prioritize the protection of grant funding in your legislative agenda. We need your help to ensure that the transformative power of grants continues enhancing the lives of your constituents and their communities.

Respectfully,
The Grant Professionals Association